

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4947

1. Name

Historic 213 - 225 North Bruce Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 213 - 225 North Bruce Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1890. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted.

The houses are two stories in height, range in width from only 10' wide to 11'4" (13'4" for the end house), and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in common bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. At 213 – 217 the shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by two long end brackets, decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip and end in a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a cross pattern. Small bull's-eye carvings mark the center of each frieze panel. At 221- 225 the shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long brackets, decorated with horizontal grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip and end in a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with an elaborate arabesque pattern, created with a jig saw. Projecting bull's-eye carvings further decorate the centers of the two frieze panels framed by the long brackets.

At 213 – 217 the door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums and wood sills. At 221- 225 the doorways have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, but the windows have no lintels and wood sills. One set of original 4/4 sash survives, but the rest of the windows have 1/1 replacement sash or are boarded over. Doorways have single-light transoms, but many of these are covered over and no original doors remain. 213 – 217 sit on high basements lit by a tall sash, and with a door reached by several steps set below street level. Each entrance is reached by seven wooden steps, set parallel to the façade. 221- 225 sit on medium-height basements lit by a single-light sash, each entrance being reached for four or five concrete steps.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1890

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses significant as representing the level of architectural stylishness builders were willing to give to small street houses in the late nineteenth century and is testament to the fact that there was no stigma attached to small street living. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast and southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-bay-wide, two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-bay-wide, two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity to the slaughterhouses of southwest Baltimore and their related industries, particularly the William Wilkens & Co. Curled Hair Manufactory, one of the largest employers in the area. A number of German-American owned breweries were also located in this section of the city. Moderately-priced housing was built to provide homes for the mainly German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in these rapidly expanding industries in the decades after the Civil War.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

132

B-4947

213-225 N. Bruce St.
BALTO. MD

175

147

170

LANSDOWNE

ST.

PENROSE 163 AVE &

185

185

148

185

170

N. FULTON

N. MOUNT

N. MONROE

177

180

ST. 178

160

179

140

192

193

ST.

66

ST. MARTIN'S
CATH. CHURCH

ST. MARTIN'S
ACADEMY

BAPT. CHURCH

BRUCE

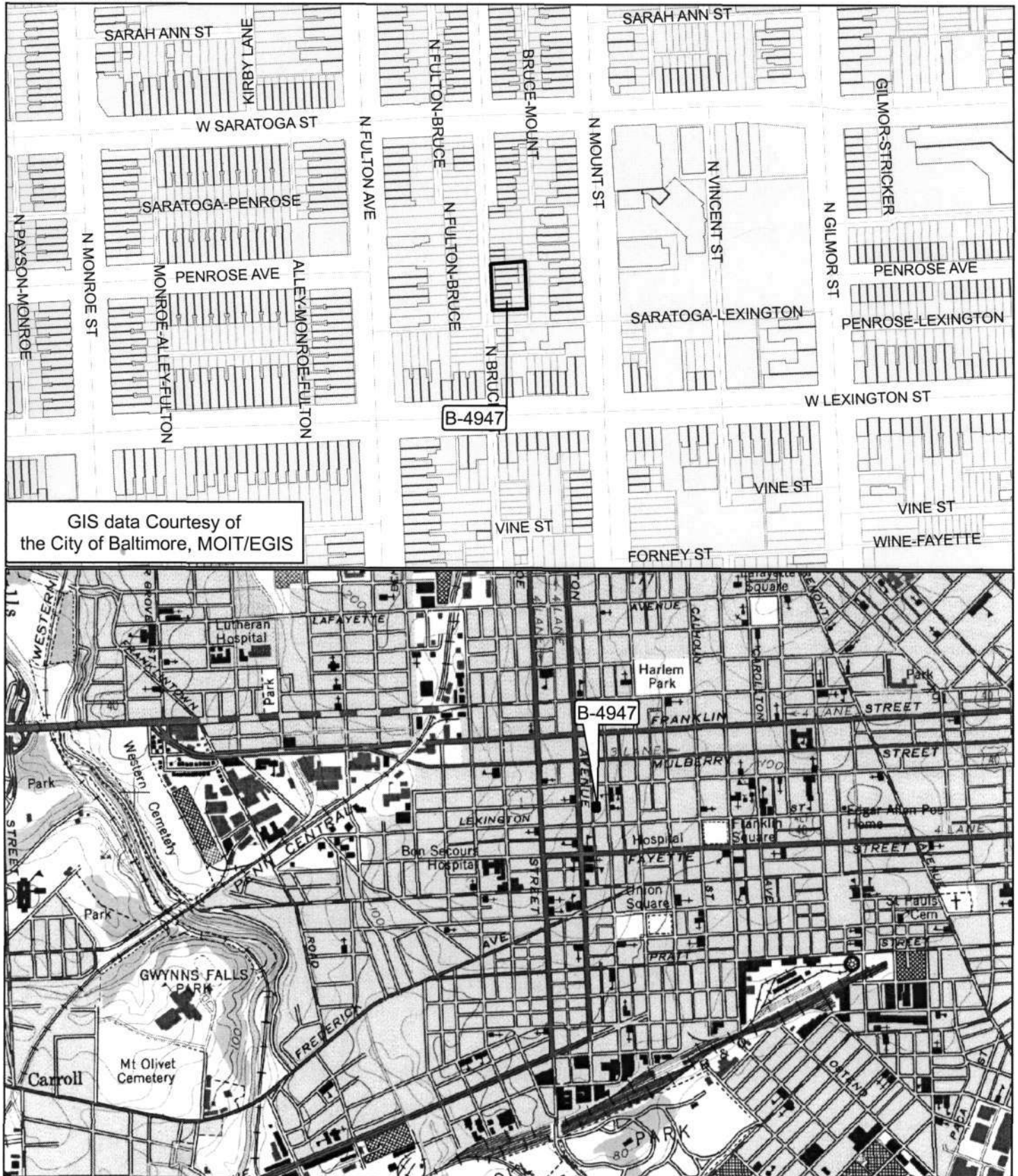
ST.

66

28

40

B-4947
213-225 N. Bruce Street
Block 0164
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.





B-4947

213-225 N.

Bruce St.

BALTO, MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

113.



B-4947

213-215 N. Bruce St.

BALTO, MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHFD

2/3



B-4947

217-225 N. Bruce
St.

BACTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

3/3